MANAGEMENT PLAN

November, 1996

for Skihist Provincial Park

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks
BC Parks Department

105-03602/

Skihist
Provincial Park

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by
BC Parks Kamloops Area Pilot Project Team
for Thompson River District
Kamloops, B.C.

Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks

BC Parks
Kamloops, BC

APPROVALS

Kamloops Area Management Planning Pilot Project
Binder Approvals Page

Forward

This binder contains 16 management plans developed under the Kamloops Area Management Planning Pilot Project. This project began in 1994 to develop, implement and evaluate a systems approach to management planning. The project concluded in October, 1998. The management plans contained in this binder provide long-term direction for a group of 10 Class A parks, five ecological reserves and one recreation area. The intention is to review this binder and the plans contained here at regular intervals. Plan vision statements and objectives will not change extensively over time. Management actions, however, will change as priorities, funding and support resources come available.

- ☐ Coldwater River Park
- ☐ Goldpan Park
- ☐ Juniper Beach Park
- ☐ Lac Le Jeune Park
- ☐ Marble Canyon Park
- ☐ McConnell Lake Park
- ☐ McQueen Creek Eco. Res.
- ☐ Monck Park
- ☐ Paul Lake Park
- ☐ Skihist Eco. Res.
- ☑ Skihist Park
- ☐ Skwaha Lake Eco. Res.
- ☐ Soap Lake Eco. Res.
- ☐ Steelhead Park
- ☐ Tranquille Eco. Res.
- ☐ Walloper Lake

Approved by:

District Manager
Thompson River District
BC Parks Department

Assistant Deputy Minister
Park Management Committee
BC Parks Department

Skihist Park Management Plan

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Skihist Park Management Plan

Introduction
This management plan defines the role of Skihist Provincial Park with the provincial park system and the objectives and guidelines for managing park values and visitor use activities in the park.

The park role, objectives and zoning as stated in the plan cannot be contravened in meaning or intent without consultation with the public and approval of the district manager and Parks Management Committee (PMC). A five year business plan is included as Appendix B to provide direction for implementing the management plan. The actions identified in the business plan will be accomplished as funding and resources permit. The business plan is subject to annual review and adjustments.

Background

Size and Designation: The government established Skihist Provincial Park March 16, 1956. The park covers 33 hectares.

Location: Skihist Provincial Park is located eight kilometres east of Lytton. Highway 1 divides the park so the majority of the park's area lies to the south of the highway.

Protected Area Values
Cultural
- contains a portion of the Cariboo Wagon Road

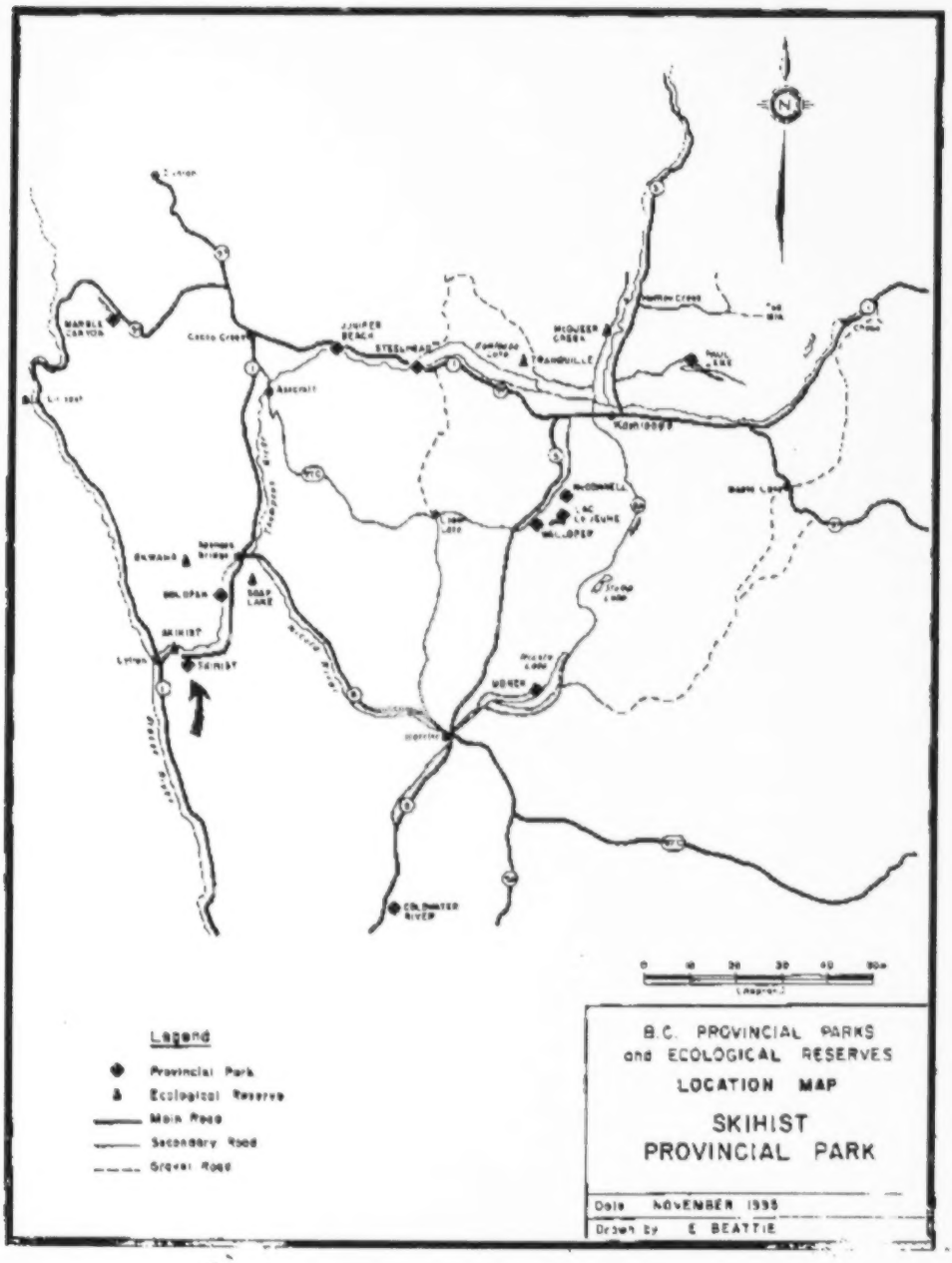
Recreation
- setting: steep-sided valley
- opportunities: travel corridor
- activities: scenic viewing; camping; day-use; auto-touring

Special Features
- dramatic views of the Thompson River Canyon and the Scarp Ranges

Education and Interpretation
- interpretation of the natural and cultural history of the area

Other Agency Interests
- Heritage Conservation Branch: heritage and archaeological values within the park

First Nations Interests
- traditional use area for hunting. This park may contain archaeological values.


Legend
Provincial Park
Ecological Reserve
Main Road
Secondary Road
Gravel Road
B.C. PROVINCIAL PARKS
and ECOLOGICAL RESERVES
LOCATION MAP
SKIHIST
PROVINCIAL PARK
Date NOVEMBER 1988
Drawn by E BEATTIE

Existing Land Uses and Encumbrances

- BC Parks holds two water licences on Gladwin Creek which are outside the park.

Role of the Park

Recreation

To provide travel corridor opportunities related to the Highway 1 corridor and scenic views of the lower Thompson River canyon

Vision Statement

Beyond the year 2000, BC Parks will continue to maintain Skihist Park as a highway oriented provincial park providing camping and day-use recreation activities for the touring public. The park performs an important role as a component of several provincial parks stretching from Lytton to Kamloops presenting the cultural and historic themes associated with this region of British Columbia.

Zoning

This entire park is zoned as intensive recreation.

Intensive Recreation Zone

- Objective: to provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Zone description: includes the entire park.
- Appropriate land uses and recreation activities: hiking, picnicking, viewing, walking, vehicle access camping; campground and picnicking facility development.

Management Concerns and Objectives

Conservation

Land

Concerns: A concern BC Parks has about Skihist Park is its small size. Virtually the entire 33 hectare park is developed with campground and day-use facilities. In addition, BC Parks water reservoir facilities lie outside the park's south boundary.

Objectives:

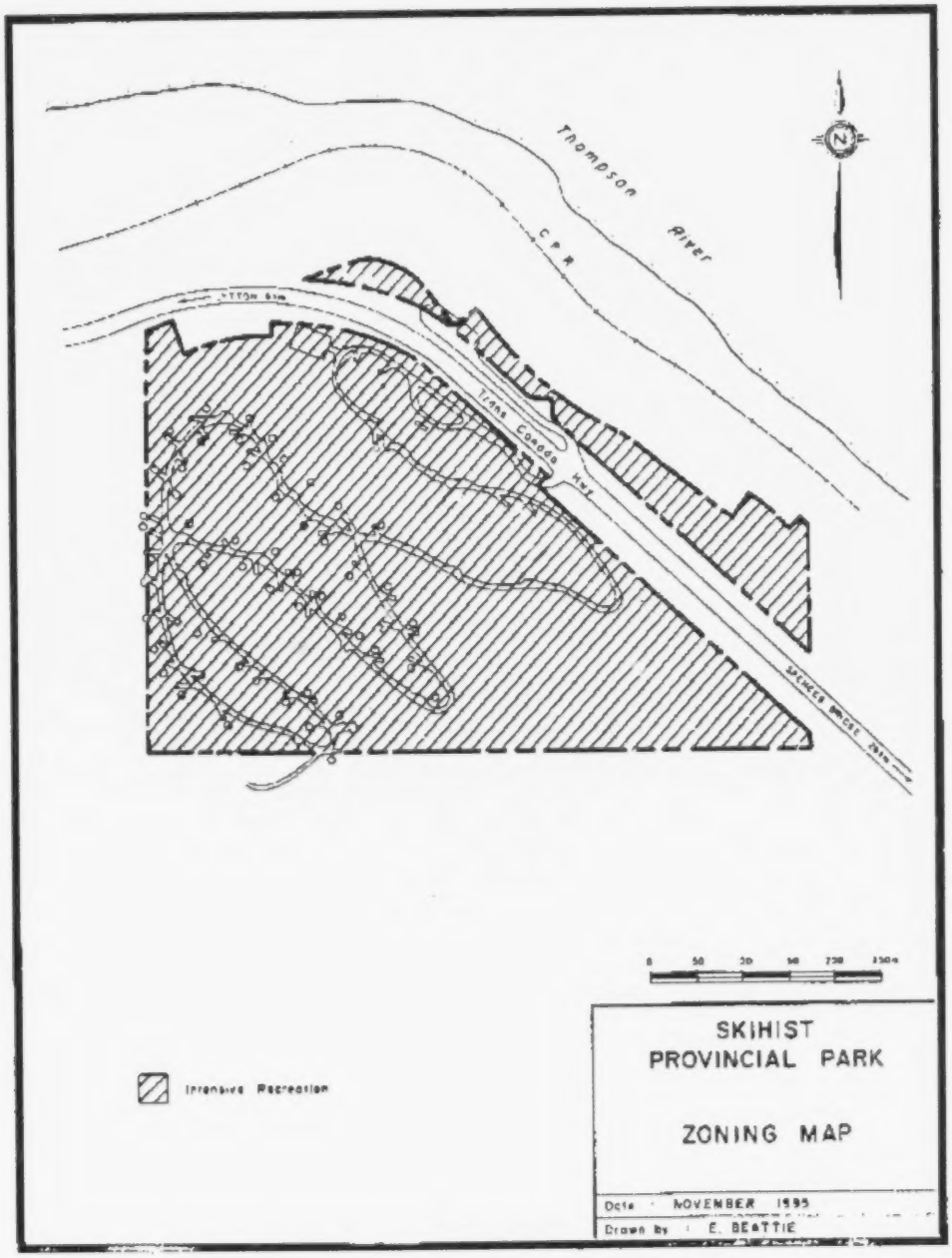
- To change the park boundary to include park facilities currently located outside the park.
- To evaluate adjacent lands to determine if expansion of the park is warranted to include a broader representation of natural, recreation and cultural features.

Vegetation

Concerns: A major concern for BC Parks is the threat of fire. The accumulation of pine needles and other combustible vegetation fuels will continue to be monitored. Prescribed burning is a tool BC Parks uses to reduce the threat of fire.

Objectives:

- To protect the park's ponderosa pine ecosystem.


Thompson River
C.P.R.
Trans Canada
Hwy
Spences Bridge
Intensive Recreation
SKIHIST
PROVINCIAL PARK
ZONING MAP
Date : NOVEMBER 1995
Drawn by : E. BEATTIE

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Recreation

Concerns: Skihist Park performs an important recreation service to tourists and visitors travelling along Highway 1. The park provides day-use opportunities for those people wanting to rest, enjoy a meal or view the spectacular Thompson River canyon. The park's campground is a welcome stop for people who are touring the Fraser Canyon route and want to camp in a provincial park. These important functions will continue though there may be shift to destination camping now that the Coquihalla Highway is the main access to the Southern Interior. The park may also serve as a base from which people would travel on day-long trips to the lower portions of the Stein Valley Nlaka'Pamux Heritage Park. An issue for people who camp in this park is the narrow variety of recreation activities a person may pursue. Finally, the park is consistent with a service level 2 standard which is appropriate for the role of the park.

Objectives:

- To provide camping and day-use recreation opportunities to a service level 2 standard.
- To provide off-highway opportunities to view the scenic Thompson River canyon.
- To evaluate the potential for providing a greater variety of recreation activities at Skihist Park.

Culture

Concerns: The original Cariboo Wagon Road passes through the centre of the park campground. A concern for BC Parks is to ensure future park development does not impact on other as yet unidentified archaeologically and historically significant values.

Objectives:

- To protect archaeological and historical values from disturbance and vandalism.

Education

Concerns: A variety of historic and First Nations themes are generic to this part of British Columbia. These themes include the transportation theme associated with the construction and use of the Cariboo Wagon Road, the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Fraser Canyon Highway. Similarly, a theme exists regarding the First Nations use of this canyon as hunting and fishing area. This canyon also provides themes tied into the fur trade and the Fraser Canyon gold rush which began the pioneer settlement of the region. This park would complement Goldpan Park, Juniper Beach Park and Steelhead Park in presenting these themes to the public.

Objectives:

- To interpret the themes of the Thompson River Canyon setting; transportation development; the ponderosa pine ecosystem; and, First Nations and pioneer historic use of the area.
- To define how Skihist Park will complement interpretation and education programs in Goldpan, Juniper Beach and Steelhead provincial parks.

Appendix A - Service Level Explanation

BC Parks service levels provide a method of defining the facilities, information and services which the public can expect within the BC Provincial Parks system. The service levels do not include any measure of the capacity or use of the area, operating standards, or resource management issues. Instead, they are strictly a list of the key facilities and services that may be provided within a particular campground or day-use area. They also provide an opportunity to explore and understand the relationship between the facilities and services BC Parks offers and the expectations of the users or potential users. This will help in making decisions based on the type and grade of facilities and services that BC Parks plans to provide and their associated costs.

Table 1. Campground Service Levels Attributes

Attribute	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Facilities				
• Roads	paved	paved	usually gravel	gravel, dirt or none
• Toilets	flush	usually flush	pit	pit or none
• Water system	pressure	pressure	pressure or handpump	not usually supplied
• Campsites	standard design	standard design	standard design	informal (non-standard)
• Tables	Type I	Type I	Type I or II	Type II
• Sani-station	available	available	not usually available	not available
• Showers	available	not available	not available	not available
Information				
• Park entrance sign	portal or plaque	plaque	plaque or Type A	Type A
• Campground entrance sign	Type A	Type A	Type A	Type A or none
• Visitor centre	usually available	not available	not available	not available
• Information structures	information shelter	information shelter	single signs	single sign or no information
Services				
• Public telephone	usually available	usually available	not usually available	not available
• Garbage collection	minimum daily	minimum daily	minimum weekly	not usually available
• Security	up to 24 hour	routine patrols	occasional patrols	no patrols
• Visitor programs	available	possibly available	not usually available	not available

Table 2. Day-use Areas Service Level Attributes

Attribute	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Facilities				
• Roads	paved	paved	usually gravel	gravel , dirt or none
• Toilets	flush	usually flush	pit	pit on none
• Water system	pressure	pressure	handpump	not usually supplied
• Tables	Type I	Type I	Type II	Type II or none
• Change House	available (if suitable for swimming)	available (if suitable for swimming)	not usually available	not available
Information				
• Park entrance sign • Day-use Areas entrance sign	portal or plaque Type A	plaque Type A	plaque or Type A Type A	Type A Type A or none
• Visitor centre	usually available	not available	not available	not available
• Information Structures	information shelter	information shelter	single signs	single sign or no information
Services				
• Public Telephone	usually available	usually available	not usually available	not available
• Garbage Collection	minimum daily	minimum daily	minimum weekly	not usually available

Appendix B - Five Year Business Plan

Objective: to expand the park boundary to include existing park facilities outside the park and include a broader representation of features

Actions:

- start the process to move the park boundary to include park facilities currently outside the park
- evaluate the potential of adding adjacent lands to the park to resolve the issues of the park's small size, future facility expansion, greater protection of natural values and providing for a wider variety of outdoor recreatio n opportunities.

Objective: To protect the park's ponderosa pine ecosystem.
Actions: prepare a fire management plan for the park. As an interim step, BC Parks will advise the Ministry of Forests that all wildfire is to be suppressed in the park.

Objective: To define how Skihist Park will complement interpretation and education programs in Goldpan, Juniper Beach and Steelhead parks.
Actions: prepare a district visitor services interpretation plan to define Skihist Park's role in interpretation and education.

Objective: to protect archaeological and historical values.
Actions: complete an inventory of archaeological and historical cultural values.